

June 22, 2017
www.mbc.org

THE Baptist Record

Vol. 141
No. 25

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION SINCE 1877

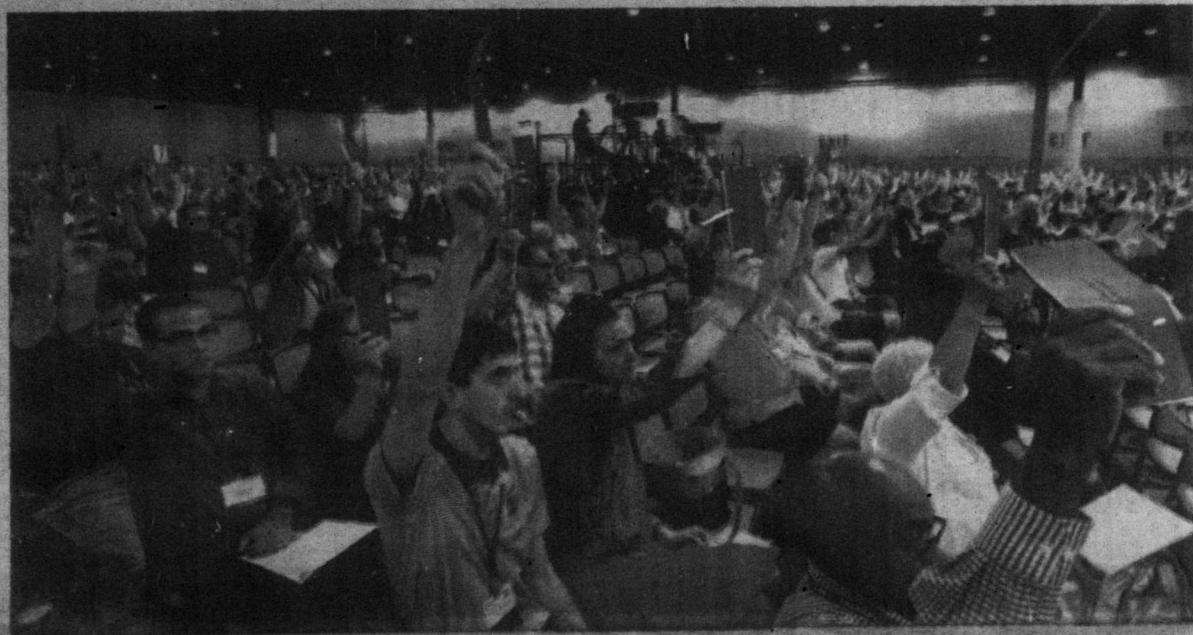
BRIEFS

RACISM RESOLUTION GETS NAAF BACKING

PHOENIX (BP) — Describing the resolution passed last week by messengers to the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Phoenix denouncing "alt-right white supremacy" as the SBC's "strongest statement to date" condemning racism, the president of the SBC's fellowship of African American pastors said, "Today is a great day for Southern Baptists" and offered his group's help to churches and entities to overcome the evil. "NAAF [National Association of African American Pastors] stands ready to assist our churches and entities in pursuing the elimination of any remaining forms of intentional or unintentional racism among us," said Byron Day, senior pastor of Emmanuel Church in Laurel, Miss. "I am confident by the grace of God that the Southern Baptist Convention will be a true picture of the Kingdom of God that consists of every tribe and language and people and every nation." Day expressed hope that the resolution was only a first step, "because words are just words without action that make those words reality."

EVANGELISM TASK FORCE TACKLES BAPTISMS DROP

PHOENIX (BP) — Before gaveling the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting in Phoenix to a close on June 14, SBC President Steve Gaines announced appointments to the task force messengers authorized to look into ways to effectively increase evangelism across the SBC and reverse the drastic decline in baptisms performed by Southern Baptist churches. According to a report from the North American Mission Board released in 2015, the convention's total of 310,000 baptisms among its cooperating churches in 2013 represented the lowest number since 1968. "It takes about 50 Southern Baptists to reach one person for Christ and see them through the baptismery," the report stated. Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, was appointed by Gaines to chair the committee.



So. Baptist Convention convenes in Phoenix

Messengers condemn racism, reelect S. Gaines as president, hear IMB is on 'stable ground'

PHOENIX (BP) — Appointment of a task force to study how Southern Baptists can be more effective in evangelism, and a resolution decrying "alt-

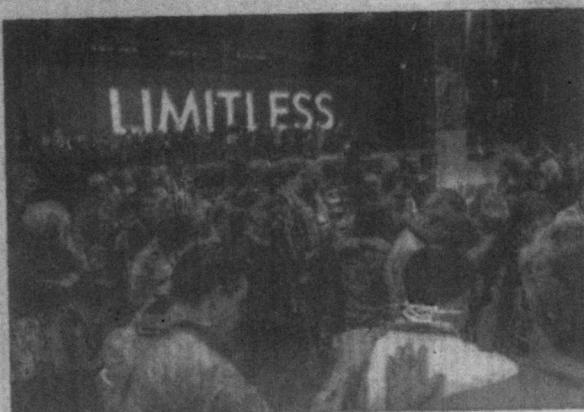
white supremacy," were among highlights of the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) annual meeting June 13-14 in Phoenix.

In addition, messengers honored 15-term registration secretary Jim Wells with a resolution of appreciation after hearing a report he is in the advanced stages of cancer. Attendees of the SBC Pastors' Conference preceding the annual meeting elected Florida pastor H.B. Charles as the conference's first African-American president.

see SBC on p. 5

▲ **IN SESSION** — Messengers from churches across the Southern Baptist Convention vote on a procedural issue during the 2017 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention June 13-14 in the Phoenix Convention Center. (BP photo)

New missionaries appointed in Phoenix



HEADED TO FIELD — Messengers to the 2017 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix pray for 31 new International Mission Board missionaries as they are commissioned. (BP photo)

PHOENIX (BP) — When she was a young girl, Ashley Sparkman listened to stories of missionaries serving around the world and told God she would take the Gospel to people who had never heard it.

In college, as she studied physical therapy, she began to ask God to expand her horizons to go on mission. Now, years later, Sparkman is one of 31 missionaries appointed last week by Southern Baptist churches in obedience to God's call to take His Gospel to people around the world. Southern Baptist messengers rejoiced with the new missionaries during a June 13 "Sending Celebration" at the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Phoenix.

"From prayerwalking in West Africa, to fitting wheelchairs

see MISSIONARIES on p. 6

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Don't fall prey

Beloved in Christ, Calvary Greetings in the Name of our lord Jesus Christ, I have been briefed to contact you because of passion for humanity and sympathy for people with just causes. I am a new Christian convert, suffering from long time cancer.

From all indications my condition is really deteriorating and it is quite obvious that I won't live more than six months. It has defiled all forms of medical treatment, and right now I have only about a few months to live, according to medical experts. I have not particularly lived my life so well, as I never really cared for anything but my business. Though I am very rich. But now I regret all this as I now know that there is more to life than just wanting to have or make all the money in the world.

I want God to be merciful to me and accept my soul so, I have decided to give gifts to charity organizations and those in need, as I want this to be one of the last good deeds I do on earth. So far, Now that my health has deteriorated so badly, I cannot do this myself anymore. The last of my money which only my Attorney knows of is the huge cash deposit of Five Million United States Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) that I have with an Asset Management/Vaulting Company Abroad. I will want you to help me collect this deposit. I am willing to donate this 5 million U.S dollars to you for the less privilege and for practical Christian service and concern.

And upon my instruction, my attorney, who presently is in Accra Ghana distributing relief materials to victims and an application for the transfer of the money in your name. Lastly, I honestly pray that this money when it get to your hand will be used for the said purpose. So if you know that you will use this fund honestly for things that will glorify God's name and purpose of God's work, then do urgently contact me back and the details will be given to you on how you will be able to receive the fund.

This commentary has been published in this space several times, but is worth repeating due to the number of such e-mails we have received lately in the offices of The Baptist Record. Anyone with a computer and an e-mail address has likely received in the past few

weeks at least one such plaintive message — if not a whole slew.

The names and reply addresses may be different, but the point is always the same: The writer is a rich but dying new Christian, always overseas, seeking to give away his fortune to someone who will use it properly to ensure his entrance into heaven. All that need be done is to contact the writer for instructions on how to transfer the money.

If the recipient does reply, he/she is usually told to withdraw a substantial sum of money from their own bank account and send it to the writer, so that the writer's money can be freed up. Then, according to the writer, all of the recipient's money plus the newfound fortune will be sent back to the recipient.

It all sounds too good to be true, and it is. These are Internet scams of the highest order.

The scheme relies on convincing a willing victim, who has demonstrated a "propensity for larceny" by responding to the invitation, to send money to the author of the letter in Nigeria in several installments of increasing amounts for a variety of reasons," reports the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), referring to a scam that originates in but is not limited to the African nation of Nigeria.

While such an invitation impresses most law-abiding citizens as a laughable hoax, millions of dollars in losses are caused by these schemes annually," warns an FBI bulletin.

It's particularly egregious when Southern Baptists fall prey to such artifice, because we already have the best system in the Protestant world for funding mission endeavors. We don't need to respond to claims foisted on us in the Name of the Lord to accomplish our duty under the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20).

Southern Baptists have the Cooperative Program, the missions offerings, and many other ways to support the spreading of the Gospel that have been proven effective and cost-efficient. If there are any doubts about whether a program is worthy of our involvement, spiritually as well as financially, we must be willing to do the research and ask the hard questions to be sure the cause is legitimate.

Don't waste your money. Don't waste the Lord's money. Don't respond to these scams. Do the right thing.

A Monument of Gratitude

We were wrapping up the monthly business meeting at my first pastorate, Mt. Pisgah Church near Quitman, a meeting where I as pastor was serving as moderator. At the time, Mississippi was caught up in a raging fire of racial tension as James Meredith became the first African-American student to enroll in Ole Miss. That tension spilled over and touched our little country church.

Our Sunday night meeting was all routine until I asked for new business. One of our men — a man whom I loved, had visited often in their home, and he and I — rose to his feet and said, "I move we fire the preacher."

Our peaceful world quickly exploded. At first, I thought he was kidding but quickly realized he was serious. As moderator, I called for a second. (Have you ever called for a second to your potential demise?) There was a prolonged silence followed by a muffled second.

Tom proceeded to tell me why I needed to go. Basically, in his own words, "You are an n***** lover." Then he went into a litany of things I had said. Taking bits of conversations and messages out of context, he proceeded to attempt to justify his recommendation.

No one else spoke. The people were in as much a shock as I. I asked them to table the motion and give me some time to gather my thoughts and bring it up at a later date. I went into the nursery where my wife Jeanette was rocking our daughter Kitty, knelt by her chair, and blurted out what had happened.

Instead of acting out of hurt and anger, Jeanette and I prayed about this disturbing state of affairs. I knew that racial bigotry was such an affront to the love and grace of God for all. In the truest sense, this was a mountain on which to die.

The Lord gave me a game plan. I asked the church not to vote as I knew the potential for division among longtime members and friends. I promised that the following Saturday I would visit every home. When I appeared at their home, they just had to say one word — either "Yes" or "No." Yes if they felt I should continue or no if I needed to move on.

I told the congregation I would announce my survey results the following



Guest opinion
with Jim Henry

Sunday, I would continue serving as their pastor if they responded with yes or resign on the spot if the answer was no. We drove home with heavy hearts and our romanticized concept of ministry shattered. All kinds of thoughts raced through my head as I processed what had transpired. On a practical note, I thought about how I might note being fired on my resume.

On Wednesday night a deacon, Paul Patrick, called me in New Orleans where Jeanette and I were living as I was also a student at New Orleans Seminary.

"Brother Jim, do not visit any homes," Paul said. "You are our pastor. Come by the station and I will give you the details." (He ran the local gas station in the small logging village of Melvin.) Greatly relieved, I made that gas station my first stop on Saturday morning.

Mr. Tom, the one who called for my firing, apparently had decided to circumvent my request and had made visits in homes encouraging people to show up on Wednesday night to handle some church business. Word reached Paul and another faithful deacon, Bob Brewer, who made some calls and urged the people to pray and not act in haste.

They crafted a statement that Bob read at the outset of the Wednesday gathering of a much larger than usual crowd. I wish I had a copy of that statement. It went something like: "Our Baptist forefathers fought, bled, and died that the pulpit would be a place where the preacher could freely preach the Word of God as the Holy Spirit led him. That has been the history of our church. Therefore, we move that our church continue to be a free pulpit where the pastor can preach

see HENRY on p. 7

BaptistRecord

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Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Seed news,
communication,
and address changes
to: The Editor, Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

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VOLUME 143 • NUMBER 25 • ISSN 0005-5778

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Washington Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$11.99 per year payable in advance. Economy plan available for congregating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar month prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

WMU meets in Phoenix to hear 'defining moments'

PHOENIX (BP) — "Defining moments," those dramatic, life-changing experiences that make an eternal difference in the hearts and minds of the Christian believer, were recounted and celebrated during the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting held June 11-12 at the Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel, prior to the start of the 2017 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (BP photo).

The 325 registered participants for the two-day meeting explored defining moments in the Bible and in the lives of missionaries, national WMU leaders, Acteens panelists, and other Southern Baptist Convention leaders.

Moments

The Monday sessions paralleled the Sunday opening theme examining "Defining Moments ... Restored" and "Defining Moments ... Released."

"Often we make a mess of our lives and wonder if it can ever be fixed," said Linda Cooper, WMU national president. "When Christ shows up, He restores us and give us new purposes."

In the annual President's Address, Cooper, a member of Forest Park Church in Bowling Green, Ky., shared the first of many defining moments in her life when as a 12-year-old in a revival service in a small country church she accepted Jesus as Savior.

These moments continued throughout her life as "God revealed a lost world to me," she said, "and led me to today where I represent an organization that is literally changing the world."

Cooper recalled meeting Skeeter, a kitchen manager at a Nashville mission this past Spring. The former homeless man had been beaten and thrown over a bridge when he came through that ministry. There he "learned about grace and experienced God's saving grace."

She recounted the story of the Rwandan woman who came to know Christ after she was freed from the bonds of sex trafficking because she was able to produce crafts for sale through WMU's WorldCrafts to earn a sustainable living.

Cooper, who was also elected to her third term as WMU president, reminded the women that they too are providing defining moments in the lives of men, women, boys, and girls in WMU — "an experience that is changing people forever."

Missionaries speak

Throughout the meeting, Southern Baptist missionaries serving around the world shared stories of restoration and release.

Ross and Dena Frierson have seen God's redemptive hand through history while ministering to the Udmurt people of Russia, the couple said.

God's plan for this previously unreached and unengaged people group can be traced back to a 2007 prayer emphasis "that I am sure some of you were a part of," said Dena Frierson, referencing the 2007 Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization that focused on the Udmurt people group.

The Friersons, who began serving in Russia in 2009, helped plant churches in Udmurtia, located about 700 miles east of Moscow. "God is still at work around the world to accomplish His redemptive purpose for all of the people groups on the earth," Dena Frierson said.



REPORT TO CONVENTION — Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) executive director-treasurer Sandra Wisdom-Martin (left) and national WMU President Linda Cooper deliver the WMU report June 14 on the last day of the two-day Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix. The report highlighted the Christian Women's and Men's Job Corps. (BP photo)



(AT LEFT) ON THE FIELD — Jessie (left) and Jacob Dahl, church planters in Washington State with the North American Mission Board, share about their work during the Woman's Missionary Union annual meeting June 12 at the Phoenix Convention Center. **(AT RIGHT) QUICK SHOT** — Diane Verady (left) of Village Church in San Lorenzo, Ca., and Janine Joseph (right), of Del Cerro Church in San Diego, Ca., share a photo with Charles Mulli at a meet-and-greet June 12 at the Phoenix Convention Center, following a screening of *Mully*, a film about his founding of the Mully Children's Family, a children's nonprofit organization in Kenya that provides for the needs of homeless, abandoned, abused, orphaned, and needy children. (BP photos)

The family will soon be serving in Wales. North American Mission Board appointees Jacob and Jessica Dahl serve as church planters in Ellensburg, Wa., home to 11,000 college students at Central Washington University. In their church plant, the missionary couple have seen more than 103 persons baptized, 98 salvations, and their core group of believers grow to 250.

As an International Mission Board worker in Thailand since 1992, Cheryl Derbyshire directs Thai Country Trim, a ministry that provides income for more than 200 rural village women who use their talents and gifts to produce WorldCraft products. As their handwork is sold across the world, the women are being led to Christ and become leaders in their local churches.

Bringing a biblical message based on Luke 14:16-24, Gordon Fort, senior ambassador for the president of the International Mission Board, said the lost are waiting for invitations to join the feast, and sit at the right hand of the Master.

"The invitation to this wedding feast is in your hand," Fort said. "This is not

just 'a' defining moment,' this is 'the' defining moment."

CWJC/CMJC

The 2017 Dellanna West O'Brien Award was presented to Becky Sumrall, executive director of Begin Anew, Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) of Middle Tennessee, in recognition of her work with CWJC as well as investment of her time in developing outstanding leadership skills in the women she works with.

Linda Cooper, president of national WMU, and Sandy Wisdom-Martin, WMU's executive director, highlighted 20 years of ministry through CWJC during their June 14 report to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting.

"Twenty years ago, WMU began a dream that has grown into a nationally recognized program for helping women in poverty become equipped for life and employment in a Christian context," Cooper said.

"[CWJC] is about courageous women fighting for their families and their futures,"

Cooper said. "It is about godly people sacrificing themselves to make a difference in someone's life."

Since Christian Women's Job Corps started in 1997, 40,000 women have been touched through the program in nearly 200 sites and, collectively, 160,000 volunteers have served 200,000,000 hours in the ministry, Cooper reported.

Wisdom-Martin told of a woman named Flo who has served as a site coordinator of a CWJC site since 2005. Wisdom-Martin recounted that Flo said of CWJC, "Looking at the women who came in broken and left [CWJC] whole, I knew this was where I was meant to be. I fell in love with them and knew this was where I could make a difference."

In 2004, WMU started Christian Men's Job Corps (CMJC), which operates in much the same way CWJC does in that each participant is paired with a mentor and is engaged in Bible study. In CWJC, women mentor women. In CMJC, men mentor men.

"It is our honor and privilege to be co-workers in the Gospel with you, taking Jesus to the nations," Cooper told messengers to the annual meeting. "Our commitment is to help your church members learn about missions, pray for missions, support missions, do ministry, develop spiritually toward a missions lifestyle, and support the work of your church and this denomination."

Elections

During the WMU Missions Celebration and Annual Meeting on June 12, Cooper, a member of Forest Park Baptist Church in Bowling Green, Ky., was reelected to a third term as national president. Jackie Hardy of First Church in Social Circle, Ga., was elected as recording secretary.

Meeting Mulli

The annual meeting concluded Monday evening when nearly 700 persons viewed the movie, *Mully*, and met the subject of the film, Charles Mulli, a Kenyan man who worked his way from abject poverty to great wealth, only to be called by God to return to poverty.

WorldCrafts is partnering with Mully Children's Family (MCF) to help share the story of Mulli and expand WorldCrafts impact among impoverished artisan groups around the world.

The film begins as Mulli, the first born in a family of eight living in poverty in Kenya, was abandoned by his parents as they left in search of a better living. He grew up begging on the streets and became a Christian as a teenager.

When Mulli was 17, he walked more than 40 miles to Nairobi to seek employment. He found work and met his future wife Esther. He became a wealthy entrepreneur and respected community leader, and he and Esther had eight biological children.

In 1989, Mulli said, the Lord laid it on his heart to help other children living in poverty in Africa. He sold all his property and businesses in order to provide street children in Africa with shelter, medical care, education, and more.

Since then Charles and Esther Mulli have taken guardianship of more than 12,000 abandoned children.

The story was met with a standing ovation by those in attendance and an interview with the couple who shared how God had met every need.

I was passing by a home that had just recently had their driveway re-concreted. Time and Yazoo clay had done their parts to destroy the old driveway, and so they had a new one put down. I have seen concrete work where they put up a sign saying, "Please do not write or walk on the concrete," but most of the time it seems as though you might as well put up a neon sign saying, "Come put your initials here," or "Leave your handprint here." That is what caught my attention about the new concrete driveway. Some people, I don't know who, had come and left various expressions and imprints in the concrete so that years later they would be solidified and you could come by there and see who loved who and who left their initials and footprints in the concrete. I suppose to make sure that nothing takes place somebody would have to stand out there guarding it, otherwise folks with a mischievous eye want to get in on leaving their mark.

Wet concrete is kind of a picture of the transitional moments in life. Transitional times always are filled with fresh ideas and opportunities both to remember and to grasp pieces of the structure of life. For instance, graduation is a great wet concrete kind of moment. A new job, a new location, marriage, the birth of a child, all are major significant moments and there are many others that are change moments in your life that you can pause and remember and project many significant things in the future. Look around at your own situa-

Directions
With Jim Furtal, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Wet Concrete

tion and you will probably see some of those transitional events in life that are wet concrete kind of moments of which you can make the most.

When people write things in the concrete or leave an impression, it is interesting that probably most of the time they are looking at the past, or maybe the present that is soon going to be the past. That's not a bad thing - to remember the past and to give thanks to God for the past. I recently saw on a sidewalk one of those past memories written by an unidentified person but a very clear place and past and time identification. It said, "Grateful to be home from Iraq." I could not help but stop and stare at it for just a moment. "Grateful to be home from Iraq." I wondered who

wrote that, and I wondered how many could have written it. I thought about those who never got home from Iraq or some other battle. For sure, it is a wonderful thing for us to stop and make note of the significant etchings in the wet concrete of life and how thankful we are for the blessings that God has poured out upon our lives.

Then the present captures the attention of most of us who are going to write something and especially most of the time when they're put in concrete, more often than any other thing that I have ever witnessed, is so-and-so loves so and so. It could be a puppy love expression or it could be the love of their life, but there it is, scraped into the concrete only to be removed by being blasted away.

A present moment that may affect all the rest of your moments. There are many of those in life that we don't stop and celebrate or take time to grieve. For some of those moments are losses. Some of those moments may involve the death of someone cherished by us. Some of those moments are just the kind of moments that you, as well as writing in the concrete, could stand on top of the house and celebrate the good things God has given you in your life.

It's not a bad thing to make those indelibly not only in our minds but in the depths of our heart. Why? You need to remember those glorious things God does for you and you have the privilege of experiencing. There may be a difficult time that comes, and you can draw on the resources of "boy, weren't those great days." So even as today comes and goes, you may recognize that there is a major changing moment in your life that is in process or maybe it's a small thing that is moving along that you could stop and be thankful for or you could anchor down in concrete the glorious work of our great God. I am not encouraging you to go venturing off onto somebody else's driveway or property and write your initials, I am asking you to think about letting God etch unchangeably the good things He has done in your life, putting them there at the center of your memory and your heart-felt need, your heart-felt emotion.

The author can be contacted at directions@mbcb.org.

Bible Drills



FIRST CHURCH, TUPELO, recognizes its children's drillers. Top row: Brady Bruce, Ashlyn Powell, Jessica Henderson, Peyton Lindsey, and Bo Burroughs; bottom row: Will Gammill and Seth Gammill. Matt Powell, pastor.



NEW LIBERTY CHURCH, MORTON, recognizes drillers Lexi Hannah and Sydney Phillips, front, and Davis Barnes, Blake McCurdy, and Trey Nichols, back.



FRIENDSHIP CHURCH, GRENADA, recognizes its children's drillers. From left: Emma Grace Waits, Emmie Robertson, Mary Carter Barnette (3 year participant), Kaylee Staten, and Jacob Corey.

Vacation Bible School

► Mt. Carmel Church, Smith County: June 26 - 30, 6 - 8:30 p.m., ages 3 years through 6th grade. Betty Sue Harris, director.

Revivals & Homecomings

► Hebron Church, Grenada: 109th homecoming, June 25, 10 a.m., followed by potluck lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Allen, Jeffrey Hutchison, and Donald Self, speakers.

► Macedonia Church, Louisville: Revival, June 25 - 28; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Wayne Hudson, speaker; Steve & Becky Carver & Family, music.

► Pilgrim's Rest Church, Ethel: Homecoming and

revival, June 25 - 28; Sun., 10 a.m., followed by lunch and 6 p.m.; Mon. - Wed., 7 p.m.; Tommy Allen, Jeffrey Hutchison, and Donald Self, speakers.

► Unity Church, Moxee: 39th homecoming, June 25; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Ted Mangum, speaker; Garry Edwards, pastor.

No Baptist Record published July 6

JACKSON, Ms. (Special) - Due to postal regulations that limit The Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, the newspaper does not publish on the weeks that contain Independence Day/July 4 and Christmas Day. The Record will therefore not publish on Thursday, July 6. For news items to be published in the issue prior to that on Thursday, June 29, the deadline is Thursday, June 22. The deadline for news items to go in the next available issue (Issue 12) is July 8. Advertisements for the issue of July 13 must be finalized by Thursday, June 29. Questions? E-mail wperkins@mbcb.org.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

House Tops

Matthew 10:27 NAS

June 22, 2017

House Tops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

FIRST PETER

LIVING AS STRANGERS IN A SECULAR WORLD

JANUARY

BIBLE STUDY
PREVIEW

SEPTEMBER 5, 12, 19

REGISTRATION: 8:30 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. | PREVIEW: 9:00 A.M. - NOON - REGISTER AT WWW.MBCB.ORG/JPS

HOSTED BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL/SMALL GROUPS DEPARTMENT - 601-292-3291

fusion

family.church.community.

Are you searching for ways to connect with and strengthen families
in your church and community?

Join us as we look at practical and strategic Helps for
Connecting with Families.

September 15 & 16
Morrison Heights Baptist Church
Clinton, MS

Keynote & Breakout Sessions | Family Ministries Showcase
Lunch will be provided.

Contact Angie Boydston in the Sunday School/Small Groups Dept.
at aboydstun@mbcb.org, 1-800-748-1651, or 601-292-3292

CMM

CHURCH MUSIC MISSISSIPPI

July 27 - 29, 2017

WORSHIP AND TEACHING by Cliff Duren Band:
Bass Guitar Rhythm Guitar Lead Guitar
Drums Keyboard

Classes Offered:
Keyboard Youth Leadership
Preschool/Children's Music Handbells

Park Place Baptist Church, Brandon
Cost: \$50 (conference & banquet meals only)
Register at www.tinyurl.com/2017CMM

Church Music Department - 601-292-3267



July 11-15
Pearl River Community College, Poplarville
July 18-22
Blue Mountain College

Church Music Department Events
601-292-3267 / cwtaylor@mrbcb.org

A conference for
Pastor's Worship Leaders

Worship theology and practical application of Biblical truth
in building healthy decision-making worship ministries.

Time: 9:00 a.m. to noon

Location: RR #1 at 801 Hwy 22, Poplarville, MS 39461

GCC Growing Churches Conference
Friday & Saturday, August 11th & 12th, 2017

Harrisburg Baptist Church
4675 Cliff Gookin Blvd.
Tupelo, MS 38801

"...for the training of the saints in the work of the ministry, to build up the body of Christ..."
Ephesians 4:12 (HCSB)

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For more information, call Lee County Baptist Association
at 662-658-1700 or visit www.growingchurches.info

Sr. Adult Minister's Retreat

Monday, August 14
Rising Son Retreat Center
444 Lake Road | French Camp, MS 39745
Time: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Keynote Speaker Missy Buchanan

\$25 Fee

visit: www.mrbcb.org/senior-adult-ministry
for a Registration Form

Small Church Youth Ministry Workshops

Workshops begin with supper at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:45.

Thursday, August 3 - Duck Hill Baptist Church
301 Main St. = Duck Hill, MS

Thursday, August 10 - First Baptist Church
12513 MS - 57 = VanCleave, MS

Thursday, August 17 - Liberty Baptist Church
5199 Lakeland Dr. = Flowood, MS

Thursday, August 24 - First Baptist Church
328 Grand Ave. = Yazoo City, MS

These workshops will provide youth ministry training and an opportunity to discuss youth ministry as it relates to the smaller churches and churches that don't employ a full-time paid youth minister. A light supper will also be served to all participants.

To Register, visit:
www.tinyurl.com/mrbcbsmallchurchworkshops

Discipleship/Family Ministry Dept. - 601-292-2283

Keeping your **CHURCH OUT** of court

Created by the Pastor/Leadership Development Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Michael Lee, Pastor/Leadership Development Department director, is available to dialogue about legal issues or to lead meetings or conferences on site.

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Pray this day for...

"praying at all times in the Spirit...To that end keep alert with perseverance, making supplication for all the saints..."

Ephesians 6:18 (ESV)

Pray for: **Floyd & Sylvia Wingo**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through strategy coordination.

Pray for: **Charles & Shannon Worthy**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through community outreach & encounter.

Pray for: **James & Mary Adair**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through church planting, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Bethany Alison**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through community outreach/encounter.

Pray for: **Richard & Martha Beal**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Karen Brown**, missionary ministering to American Peoples through nursing.

Pray for: **Matthew Burks**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through general evangelism.

Pray for: **Rebekah Clark**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through youth evangelism.

Pray for: **Cindy DeMars**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Guy DeMars**, missionary ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through hospitality coordination.

Pray for: **Sheila Flowers**, missionary ministering to European Peoples through administration.

Pray for: **Clarence Frank & Phoebe Harrison**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples.

Pray for: **Kenneth & Kimberly Hatchcock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Earl & Ramone Hewitt**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples through medicine, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Cynthia Hodgkins**, missionary ministering to Deaf Peoples through church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Karl & Peggy Wallace**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through mission administration, church outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **David & Laurie Bledsoe**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples through financial administration, church/home outreach & evangelism.

Pray for: **Aaron & Tiffany Epps**, missionaries ministering to American peoples through church/outreach & evangelism.



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HOUSE TOPS

SBC

cont. from p. 1

The unofficial total of 5,018 registered messengers was down from 7,321 last year. Those messengers expanded representation on the SBC Executive Committee to include four states or defined territories which had not previously qualified for representation under Bylaw 30. Southern Baptists also gave the Executive Committee authority to sell the SBC Building in Nashville, and received a multimillion-dollar gift through the Cooperative Program from the Florida Baptist Convention stemming from the sale of its building in Jacksonville.

When registered guests, exhibitors, and others were included, the count of those at the annual meeting was tallied, as of June 15, at 9,318.

'Alt-right' resolution

A resolution on "the anti-gospel of alt-right white supremacy" decried "every form of racism, including alt-right white supremacy, as antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ" and pledged to pray "both for those who advocate racist ideologies and those who are thereby deceived." A vote to approve the resolution June 14 was followed by a standing ovation from messengers.

In its initial report, the Reso-

lutions Committee declined to recommend convention action on a resolution submitted by Texas pastor Dwight McKissic condemning the white supremacist movements sometimes known as "white nationalism" or "alt-right." Two June 13 motions to consider the resolution on the convention floor each failed to achieve the requisite two-thirds majority.

Amid ongoing discussion, however, the Resolutions Committee requested and was granted by the convention an opportunity to reverse its decision and present a resolution on alt-right racist ideology.

Resolutions Committee chairman Barrett Duke, in presenting the resolution, told messengers, "We regret and apologize for the pain and the confusion that we created for you and a watching world when we decided not to report out a resolution on alt-right racism."

The committee abhors racism, Duke said, adding the initial decision not to recommend a resolution condemning alt-right racist ideology did not reflect sympathy with that ideology.

Evangelism task force

SBC President Steve Gaines, reelected to a second term, recommended creation of an evangelism task force to study how Southern Baptists can be more effective in personal soul win-

ning and evangelistic preaching. North American Mission Board (NAMB) President Kevin Ezell made a motion, later approved by messengers, that the convention authorize Gaines to appoint the group.

In the annual meeting's final session, Gaines announced the members of the 19-person task force, including chairman Paige Patterson, president of Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth. The group will report to the 2018 SBC annual meeting in Dallas.

Creation of the task force was in keeping with an evangelism emphasis in Gaines' presidential address. "I want to encourage you to be a soul winner," said Gaines, pastor of Memphis-area Bellevue Church in Cordova, Tenn.

A Tuesday-evening message by California pastor and evangelist Greg Laurie urged preachers to extend public invitations for people to follow Christ whenever they proclaim the Gospel. In his message, Laurie announced that Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Ca., where he is pastor, has begun cooperating with the SBC.

Wells honored

The resolution of appreciation for Wells, recommended by the Executive Committee, expressed "deepest and most sincere gratitude to God" that Wells "has fulfilled the role as an officer of the Convention with godliness, integrity, kindness, and thoroughness, assuring that each duly elected messenger from churches that cooperate with the Southern Baptist Convention was properly certified and that each messenger's ballot was accurately counted and reported in every balloted vote."

Wells, who was first elected registration secretary in 2002, was not present at the annual meeting. The Executive Committee appointed his chief assistant Don Currence, minister of administration and children's pastor at First Church in Ozark, Mo., as acting registration secretary.

Messengers elected Currence as 2018 registration secretary on the second ballot from a field of five nominees.

Exec. Comm. report

Among 11 Executive Committee recommendations approved by messengers was one authorizing the committee "to continue studying the advisability of a sale of the SBC Building, and to sell the property upon such terms and conditions, and at such a time, if any, as the Executive Committee may hereafter approve."

Another recommendation approved by messengers granted Executive Committee representation to four regions even though they have too few church members to apply for representation under the provisions of SBC Bylaw 30. The recommendation amended Bylaw 18 to list the Dakotas, Iowa, Minnesota-Wisconsin, and Montana as each being entitled to a single EC representative.

During the Executive Committee report, Florida Baptist

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SBC OFFICERS — Newly elected officers of the Southern Baptist Convention are (from left) Steve Gaines, president; John Yeats, recording secretary; Jose Abella, second vice president; and Don Currence, registration secretary. Not pictured is Walter Strickland, first vice president. (BP photo)

Convention executive director Tommy Green presented a check for \$3,156,500 to help fund SBC Cooperative Program (CP) ministries. The gift represented 51% of proceeds from the sale of the Florida convention's building.

Executive Committee President Frank S. Page said the gift brought 2016-17 CP Allocation Budget coverage above last year's surplus total.

Page's report to the SBC included the launch of a convention-wide stewardship emphasis featuring a partnership with Ramsey Solutions, the organization led by radio host Dave Ramsey. The stewardship emphasis continued June 14 with a president's panel discussion on stewardship moderated by Gaines.

approved the 2017-18 CP Allocation Budget which establishes the percentage of CP receipts distributed to each CP-funded entity.

In other news:

■ IMB President David Platt said the board's finances are on "stable ground" and urged messengers to focus on the "present work we are doing" rather than "past financial struggles." The IMB presentation included a commissioning service at which messengers gathered around newly-appointed missionaries to pray.

■ In the NAMB report, Ezell said 734 new churches were planted by Southern Baptists in 2016 and 232 existing churches began cooperating with the SBC.

■ The annual Crossover evangelism emphasis and the tandem Harvest America crusade yielded 3,549 professions of faith.

■ A group of about 50 protesters gathered outside the Phoenix Convention Center June 13, asking the SBC to remove homosexuality and transgenderism from its "sin list." The group distributed flyers that included the 2017 SBC logo and theme — an action that had not been approved by any SBC entity.

■ Messengers approved changing the IMB's fiscal year to Oct. 1-Sept. 30.

■ The Global Hunger Relief Run June 14 allowed messengers and other annual meeting attendees to participate in either a 5K run or one-mile family-oriented fun run to raise money for hunger relief projects in North America and internationally.

■ A full 80% of members elected to the 2017-18 Committee on Nominations have never served on an SBC board or committee, said Randy Davis, chairman of the Committee on Committees, the body which nominates the Committee on Nominations.

■ All speakers at the June 11-12 SBC Pastors' Conference were pastors of churches with approximately 500 or fewer in average attendance.

■ All annual meeting attendees are asked to fill out a survey available at surveymonkey.com/r/sbcam17.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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AGN LANLE NSLELTAA.
JOEU NLA: XTXNLLA

Clue: Q = C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 10:29

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MISSIONARIES

cont. from p. 1

and sharing the Gospel in Eastern Europe, to Bible stories and dressing wounds in the desert [God] affirmed His call on my heart to the nations and brought me from a place of timidity to sharing truth," said Sparkman, who is being sent by Calvary Church in Longview, Texas, to share the hope of Christ in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Eliza Hudson (not her real name) was in second grade when a friend told her that she doesn't know Jesus because she was from Lebanon.

"I knew then, if they didn't know, I would go tell them," Hudson said.

Today, the displacement of Middle Eastern refugees gives Hudson and her husband William a new opportunity to engage unreached peoples with Jesus Christ. Their family of three will serve among refugees in Europe.

Sam Moon (not his real name) is the eldest son in a Buddhist family but even as a child, "the Lord did not stop me from sharing the Gospel with my family," Moon told messengers. "I faced persecution and disadvantage in the workplace for last 15 years. The Lord did not stop me from sharing the Gospel with my coworkers."

Sophia Moon (not her real name) said she and Sam have shared the Gospel with many people groups for the last 10 years. As the first Christian missionaries of their entire family, the Moons are willing to obey God's calling to serve in Central Asia along with their three children.

International Mission Board (IMB) President David Platt said he was recently reminded of the astounding need to take the Gospel to a lost world. Just a few

days earlier, he was waking up in a remote village high in the Himalayas, in the northern part of Nepal near Tibet.

"For five days, I was walking through village after village, and apart from a few Christians who recently moved to those mountains, there wasn't one follower of Christ to be found. Not one," Platt said. "Nine million people spread across 24 people groups in that particular region, and out of those nine million people, it's estimated that less than 100 of them are Christians."

"Most of these millions have never heard of Christ. They haven't even heard His name. You'll ask, 'Do you know anything about Jesus?' and they'll say, 'Who's that?'

Platt recounted drinking butter tea with one family who had a statue of Buddha on their wall, with silver cups in front of the statue. The family shared how every morning they wake up about 4:30 a.m., and before they go out to work in the fields they fill the cups with water, place a candle in them, and light the candle to offer worship to the Buddha. They just assume that everybody worships the same way and believes the same things

because it's the way their ancestors worshiped for generations, Platt said.

"I just want to remind us that the reason we came together [as a convention] over 170 years ago and the reason we're here in Phoenix this week is to change the future of little girls and boys and moms and dads like these in Nepal all over the world," Platt emphasized, "and if no one goes as a missionary to them — someone sent out beyond where they live to places where the Gospel has not gone — then those people will continue for generation after generation without ever hearing the Gospel."

"Southern Baptists, this is part of — if not the primary reason — we came together in the first place: to send out and support missionaries, men and women and their families going out from our churches for the spread of the Gospel where it hasn't gone," Platt said.

"The stage is set for limitless Southern Baptists to take the Gospel to the nations," he added, "and my question for us tonight is, 'Will we send them?'

To learn more about pathways to serve on mission, visit IMB.org.

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via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted. Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lit. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, buildings, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

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Need a light?

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 25, 2017

Our Response • Psalm 138

The titles for our first three lessons for this quarter were: "The Path, The Past, The Shepherd." These titles are part of a long sentence that we will be able to read together at the end of this summer of our study in Psalms. Each lesson title will be one pearl on a beautiful necklace. God charted the path for our journey in Psalm One. We remembered His faithfulness to us in the past in Psalm 78. We are grateful to be led by the Shepherd as He is pictured in Psalm 23. We can be assured that He has met and is meeting and will meet all of our needs along this journey. We have need of nothing!

Such providential blessing and intensive care certainly call for a response from us. Psalm 138 gives wings and voice to that response of thanksgiving from a deeply grateful heart. If we began today and spoke only thanksgivings to the Lord, we would never be able to even touch the hem of the garment of His blessings to us. Blessed people should be thankful people. We easily bask in the former but sometimes neglect to be the latter.

Psalm 138 is spoken directly to God in the first person. David is credited as the penner of this biblical Thank You God card. In verses one and two, his heart adores God. His mouth sings praises

to God. His knees bow before God. The name of God and the lovingkindness of God and the truth of God are praiseworthy. The name of God and the word of God are one. In verse three, David declares that he cannot recall one time that God did not answer his prayer. God made him bold (like a powerful storm) with strength (mighty power from deep) inside his soul. Wonder if his sling and stone battle with Goliath came to mind as he wrote those words? The runt of the litter vanquished a giant with the power of the Lord. What a day!

Verse four records that kings will sing of the ways of the Lord. Even pagan, unbelieving kings will acknowledge the greatness of David's Lord. In the New Testament, Paul would later write in Philippians that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God,



Explore the Bible with Becky Brown

understands His creations. He is never far away. Through creation and the voice of His own Spirit, God is always calling us to Himself. He loves the lowly and He loves the haughty. God knows your address and mine.

Verse seven reminds us of walking through the valley of the shadow of death in Psalm 23. Enemies are perpetually near. Trouble surrounds us. Many

of our troubles are self-perpetuated. He does hear us when we cry out to Him. He rescues us by stretching out His strong right hand toward our present crisis. Though God might not choose to deliver us FROM trouble, He promises to be with us IN the midst of trouble.

Verse eight delivers a fitting conclusion to David's song of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. I have often quoted the first line of this verse as a prayer of assurance: The Lord will accomplish (bring to full completion) what concerns (stands beyond the control of) me. All (each and every one) of the things that cause me concern will be tended to personally by the Lord in Whom I trust and in Whose loving arms I rest my case.

His lovingkindness is everlasting. David closes the Psalm with a one-line prayer: "Do not forsake the works of Thy hands." David, you and I and all of creation are the works of the hands of God. I believe David the Shepherd King and Sweet Singer of Israel was stating a cherished fact rather than expressing a request. With David, I say, "Amen!" To God, I say, "Thanks!"

Brown is staff evangelist, First Church, Richland.

See Their Worth • 2 Samuel 11:1-9, 14-17

The U.S. Treasury Department trains its workers to spot counterfeit money by spending hours studying authentic bills. All of the intricacies that go into making money are memorized. The government wants safety precautions to become second nature to those whose job it is to spot the real thing. No detail is too small when it comes to recognizing the true item when you see it.

The story of David and Bathsheba is relatable. As we read this story we are quick to list all the sins associated with David. While it is true that his actions were pure gross negligence, we can learn a great lesson of how we are to treat others by familiarizing ourselves with Godly mannerisms instead ways that are simply counterfeit to God's heart.

Do you see their worth? (11:1-9)

David was selfish. He used Bathsheba to satisfy a sinful desire. Yes, what he did was unspeakable towards a young woman but beyond that act was the sin of failing to account for her worth. During the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explains that all humanity has a special value to God. In Matthew 6:26 Jesus inquires of His listeners if they are not worth more than small birds of which God cares for? The answer is yes. Each

one of us, including Bathsheba, has great worth before our loving God.

David failed to see that worth and in that failing sinned against God. When confronted with the sinful act by Nathan (2 Samuel 12) David's response was to pen the words of Psalm 51. In this Psalm of contrition, David expressed remorse for his sin against God alone (vs. 4). He understood that while he had acted hideously against Bathsheba, it was his great sin against God that was his issue. Bathsheba had no power over David. She had no ability to punish David. She had made no eternal covenant with David. All because he had failed to see her worth to God.

Do you see their needs? (11:5-9, 14-17)

Writing to the church of Philippi, Paul teaches that believers are to never act in a selfish manner and to look for ways to places others before ourselves. (2:1-4) This mandate was far from the mind of

David. At no point in this scene did David ever act as a king to this young lady. Kings are supposed to protect and provide for the well-being of their people. Who better to look out for her needs than her king? Yet, David was blinded to her needs by selfishness.

Believers have a king that is better than David. Our king lived to serve others. Just the opposite of David, Jesus was the epitome of Paul's teachings to the Philippians. By comparison, David used the death of an innocent man (vs. 14-17) to try and cover his sins. Consider the irony that God used the death of an

innocent man to cover our sins. My sins, which are just as dire as David's, need to be covered by this innocent man. As horrible a situation that befell onto Bathsheba, even she was a guilty sinner before God. Fact is, all of humanity is guilty in sin before God. Our greatest need is not a great cover up for our misdeeds or even retribution against others for hurting us. David, Bathsheba and anyone reading

these words have the same great, singular need: salvation from their sins.

Do you see your heart?

Just as counterfeit money can be spotted by training with authentic money, so must our Christian walk be lived by studying the life of Christ. David showed great promise but proved to be all too human. Indeed, any human that we attempt to imitate will ultimately let us down. That said, please understand that Jesus is not our great example to live by. We could never live up to Jesus' example, nor should we try. We would only hurt others in the process, much like David did Bathsheba.

Here is as much truth as can be garnered from this scene: you and I are David. His heart was selfish. So are ours. Chapter 11:1 states that while other kings were off fighting, he stayed home, in essence not doing what was required of him. Admit it, the same could be said of us. We are quick to label his sins as horrible sins yet ours are just as spectacular. My heart needs the cleansing written about in Psalm 51. Read it now and see if you agree.

Anthony is director of the Collaborative Missionary Network, Oxford/Holly Springs.

HENRY

cont. from p.2

in freedom the Word of God."

The motion was made, seconded, and then passed by a strong majority of the

church. It sustained my continuing ministry there for another year. I have pondered a thousand times the questions: What if they had voted to fire me? Would I still be in the ministry? What kind of attitude would I carry if I contin-

ued as a pastor? Could I ever trust people again?

One thing is for sure: The courageous action of those two deacons and the affirmation of a people living in the midst of racial conflict with enormous ramifications carved a monu-

ment of deepest gratitude in the heart of a young preacher.

Henry, online at www.jimhenry.com, is senior pastor of Downtown Church in Orlando, Fl. He was the 1995-1996 president of the Southern Baptist

Convention, and is a former pastor of Hollywood Church, Sledge. This column is adapted from his autobiography, *Son of a Gunn* (Oviedo, Florida: HighLife, 2016). His commentary appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

Just for the Record



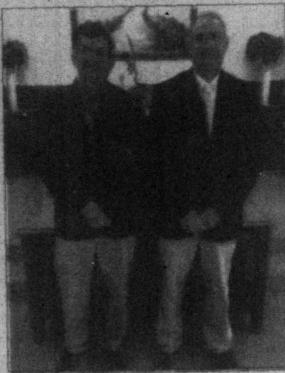
INGOMAR CHURCH, UNION COUNTY, celebrated Baccalaureate Service May 7. Nine high school graduates were recognized. Pictured are Morgan Dowdy, Morgan Gooch, Katelyn Thompson, Ross Sprouse, Calub Merritt, Jake Mangum, Jake Webb, Boone Faulkner, and Easton Williams.



LIBERTY HILL CHURCH, POPE, honored college graduate Savana Williams, along with high school graduates Grayson Smith, Darby Smith, and Taylor Utz, all shown with pastor Derrick Simmons.



The youth group of **LITTLE BAHALA CHURCH, WESSON,** spent a week at Camp Living Stones, Englewood, Tenn., a Christian outdoor recreation and adventure youth camp.



MT. VERNON CHURCH, WEBSTER COUNTY ASSOCIATION, ordained Huelon Barnett and Jimmy Adkins as deacons June 4.

FIRST CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO, honored Mark V. Parmell June 4 during a special service celebrating his 20th anniversary as associate pastor. He is shown with his wife Treva, pastor Barry Corbett, and wife Denise.



In other Church News:

► **New Heights Church, Summit,** will host the Foto Sisters in concert June 25, 6 p.m. Love offering. For information, visit www.thefotosisters.com.



FIRST CHURCH, BATESVILLE, dedicated 13 babies on Mother's Day.

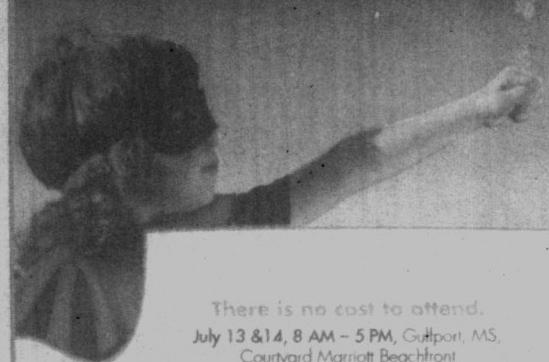


RIVERSIDE CHURCH, LONG BEACH, recognizes two classes offered in their church. Shown are members of the David Platt Counter Culture Class and members of the True Love Waits Class. Jana Colcote taught both classes.

Q. HOW DOES ABUSE AFFECT SPIRITUALITY?

A. Abuse wounds the spirit and leaves scars for life. Abuse and neglect can violate every part of a child—mind, soul and body. The Chaplains for Children training can provide the tools Churches need to model the love of Christ while listening and guiding children through the journey of coping and living more fully.

Plan to attend The Chaplains for Children Training to learn how to become part of the solution. Mississippi's children are counting on you!



There is no cost to attend.
July 13 & 14, 8 AM - 5 PM, Gulfport, MS,
Courtyard Marriott Beachfront



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